



SELLS



Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing

July 2003

The SELLS Quarterly Newsletter

Co-Chair Corner

Another SELLS workshop has concluded. By all accounts it was a rousing success. Thanks to Howard Gordon for his outstanding contributions and a special thanks to BNFL Inc. for their generous sponsorship of the event. We networked, shared information, and had a fantastic time!



SELLS members at road cut during geologic tour. What a fantastic time!

Let us know about anything new happening with lessons learned at your site! If you have any ideas to add to this newsletter, contact Dawn via e-mail at starred@nv.doe.gov

New Initiatives

The OE Review/Lessons Learned Re-Engineering effort is underway. Ray Blowitski leading the interface between SELLS and EH.

In Memorial

Tommy Wall passed away in early June 2003, from heart failure. Tommy was a former SELLS Executive Committee member while he worked for Duke Engineering as part of the Yucca Mountain Project. Tommy's charm and sharp wit won him many fast friends. He was a skilled analyst who could sum up a long-protracted discussion in a few salient sentences. Most of us will have lasting, warm memories of Tommy and the work he did with us on behalf of SELLS and the organizations he represented. His friendship and down-to-earth advice will be missed.



Tommy Wall at the SELLS 2001 Spring Conference



Focus - Instrument Limitations

As the summer heat presses on, most of us are aware of the dangers of heat stress and leaving children and pets in parked cars. What we may not consider is the effect heat has on various instruments. Extreme temperatures affect the performance of different instruments and cause extensive and expensive damage to instruments. Radiation instruments are one example of instruments affected by extreme heat. Car interiors can approach 160 degrees Fahrenheit. The desert sand can reflect heat and approach equally high temperatures. Review manufacturers' instructions to determine if field instrumentation has temperature sensitivities. Provide temperature limitations for each instrument to instructors and users to reduce the incidence of instrument damage caused by exposure to extreme heat. Examples of radiation instrument temperature limitations are reflected below:

ELECTRA	122
LUDLUM MODEL-3	122
MSA ELF'S	113
BICRON MICRO-REM	122
T-111 TRITIUM MONITOR	122
RO-20 / RSO-50	140
ESP-2	122
ASP-1/NRD	122
PNR-4/NRD	140
VICTOREEN 450B	158



SELLS Member Profile

Jenny Roddy is the designated contact for lessons learned at the Oak Ridge Wackenhut Services Inc. Jenny is an invaluable SELLS Executive Committee member who works behind the scenes posting agendas and meeting minutes each week in support of the SELLS Secretary. This is the first year Jenny has been a member of the SELLS Executive Committee. She is working diligently with the SELLS Secretary to capture and preserve SELLS historical information. Jenny also is the DOE Lessons Learned List Server backup. She is the shutterbug at most SELLS functions. Our appreciation for all your efforts Jenny!

Upcoming Events

October 14-16, 2003
SELLS 2003 Fall Workshop
Atlanta, GA

November 4-6, 2003
GIDEP Clinic
Corona, CA

September 14-17, 2003
Academy of Certified Hazardous
Materials Managers
Dallas, TX

Improving Alerts

Mentoring has begun and it is a regular agenda item on the bi-weekly SELLS telephone calls. Mentors have been reviewing two selected alerts per month and distributing comments in accordance with the author's preference. Authors interested in having their lessons learned reviewed need to indicate that in the review option field for each lessons learned submitted. The SELLS Executive Committee will be evaluating the functional utility of the mentoring process after one year.

Quote

If you pay people not to find problems, they will learn how to avoid even seeing the problems. - Bill Corcoran

Next SELLS Meeting

The SELLS Executive Committee is planning the agenda for the October meeting in Atlanta and is currently seeking speakers who can share their motivational techniques for improving lessons learned involvement. If you would like to be a presenter, contact one of the SELLS Co-Chairs.

Rich Schassburger at:
Richard.Schassburger@rf.doe.gov

Dawn Starrett at:
starred@nv.doe.gov



New Resources

Check out the SELLS 2003 Spring Workshop proceedings at the following web site:
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/ll/proceedings/proceedings0403/proceedings0403.html>

The Firebird Forum – the newsletter of event investigation organizational learning developments at:
<http://pages.prodigy.net/corcoran.nsrc/index.html>

Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) Best Practices
<http://efcog.org/Best%20Practices/Best%20Practices.htm>

A Questioning Attitude

Do you encourage your workers to have a questioning attitude? A questioning attitude demonstrates worker focus on the work so they are present AND accounted for. A questioning attitude can be demonstrated by investigating why various conditions exist. Employees who perform work without questioning conditions may miss cues that seem obvious later. A good example is demonstrated in the following photo.



Want to share a lessons learned? Contact your organization's Lessons Learned Point of Contact.